

HEADQUARTERS  
14TH ARMORED DIVISION ARTILLERY  
APO 446

5 February 1945

SUBJECT: History, 14th Armored Division Artillery.  
TO : Commanding General, 14th Armored Division.

1. In compliance with Memo, Headquarters 14th Armored Division, dated 4 January 1945, the attached is a History of the 14th Armored Division Artillery for month of January 1945.

For the Artillery Commander:

*Carl C. Neely*  
CARL C. NEELY  
Lt. Col., F.A.  
Executive Officer

*W. J. Stetson, Col. H.A. 19 Feb 46*

*614-ART-012 History 14th Armored Division Artillery 0614-53.4*

*Gen - Col. Apr 45 - 1-4*

*DEC 18 1945*

HEADQUARTERS  
14TH ARMORED DIVISION ARTILLERY  
APO 446

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HISTORY: 14th ARMORED DIVISION ARTILLERY

1 January 1945

Div Arty:

CP Schillersdorf, Q845302, Mission: Reinforcing fires of 45th Div Arty.

499th AFA Bn:

CP Q948407. Mission: Reinforcing fires of 45th Div Arty. Fires: Observed 18, unobserved 5.

500th AFA Bn:

CP Reipertswiller, Q802370. Mission: Reinforcing fires of 310th FA Bn under Div Arty control. Fires: No report.

501st AFA Bn:

CP Weyer, Q5728. Mission: Attached to CCA in XV Corps area, prepared to repulse any counterattack from vicinity Bitche and West. Not committed.

This date marks the 29th consecutive day for our Div Artillery in combat as a unit-500 AFA having been committed earlier.

On a visit to VI Corps Arty, Lt. Col. Carl C Neely, Executive Officer, received the following instructions: "In case the 14th AD is committed, the 14th AD Arty reverts to control of 14th AD.

Enemy Activity:

Fairly heavy fighting in Barenthal during the day. 40 rds fell in this town about 1110. 500th AFA rec'd intermittent C/B fire from West of Barenthal. TF Huddelson was attacked about 2400 by a force estimated as 2 Bns. In addition, 300 to 400 Ey Inf observed at Q813428, 100 at Q 905468, and 150 more North of Neunhoffen Q915465. Barenthal was reported recaptured as of 1800. Reports of infiltration thru the area from Q 918464 to Q948492 were received. Four tanks were observed by 500th moving SW at Q836451 at 1200. All in all, Ey Inf was quite aggressive in infiltrating thru our Inf lines. Our Inf captured and killed quite a number in these attacks.

The following reports were received this Headquarters: Trucks and small towed guns vicinity Q837042. Foottroops, Co strength, observed moving SW from Q830445 at 1200. Six vehicles moving at Q878475 at 1200. S/A fire from vicinity of Barenthal and high ground at Q843423, also Q8411 to Q8541. These were taken under fire. The 499th fired on personnel and MG at Q922451, and personnel at Q913469 Q912470, Q919464, Q905468. One of our Inf CP parties were captured at RO37525.

SO 1. Hq 14th Armd Div., 1 January 1945.

"9. LT COL DALE V. SWANSON, O 240 321, FA, is reld fr asgmt to 500th Armd FA Bn, and asgd to Hq Div Tns, 14th Armd Div!"

Major Joseph J. Murtha assumed command 500th AFA Bn.

2 January 1945

Div Arty:

CP no change. Mission no change.

499th AFA Bn:

CP no change. Mission no change. Fires: Observed 6, unobserved 29.

500th AFA Bn:

CP Q814362. Mission no change. Fires: Observed 9, Unobserved 13.

501st AFA Bn:

CP Riedhiem, Q8213. Mission no change. Fires: None.

Enemy Activity:

Artillery and motor vehicles reported at Q798396 at 1233. 9 rds of 88mm fell in 500th position area at 1245, 4 more rds at 1425. 4 ey tanks, 200 Inf, seen at Q7541 as of 1100. Ey armored C/A, our troops back slightly in a couple of sectors. Air OP's reported ey dug in at Q793384, Q800390, Q919464, Q847438, Q858446. 18 of our P47's strafed and bombed road from Saareinsburg to Mouterhouse with no AA fire being received.

A call from ~~ME~~ Col Lemley, VI Corps Arty, Executive Officer, to Lt. Col Neely at 2250, requested information as to whether 501st could be put in position at Q785347, by daylight and establish communication with and reinforce fires of the unit at Q739354. G-3 was notified and the 501st alerted to move.

3 January 1945

Div Arty:

CP no change. Mission no change.

499th AFA Bn:

CP Q92923205. Mission: Attached to 45th Inf Div Arty. Fires: Observed 12, unobserved 7.

500th AFA Bn:

CP Q815302. Mission: Supporting the fires of the 45th Inf Div Arty. Fires: Observed 29, unobserved 8.

501st AFA Bn:

CP Q78993067. Mission: Supporting the fires of the 45th Inf Div Arty. Fires: Observed 1.

93rd AFA Bn attached to Div Arty to form the 14th Div Arty

Groupmont.

Enemy Activity:

Ey forces infiltrated into Reipertswiller, Q8037 at 0100. The 500th AFA took Reipertswiller under fire at 0115, also fire on Armored movements just North of the town at 0340. The remainder of the night was marked by a series of small C/A's. A C/A of 1 Bn strength was repulsed at 1600 by the Inf closely supported by 500th AFA fire. An ey column was fired on at Q792375. One Ey tank was knocked out and the Inf scattered. Inf and MG's were fired on at the following points by the 499th: Q834413, Q854424, Q878426, and Q877427. A report from VI Corps Arty warned of an impending attack by the Sixth SS Mountain Div in vicinity of Q7835 tonight.

4 January 1945

Div Arty:

CP no change. Mission no change.

499th AFA Bn:

CP no change. Mission no change. Fires Observed 5, unobserved 15.

500th AFA Bn:

CP Q79954067. Mission no change. Fires: Observed 12  
unobserved 9.

501st AFA Bn:

CP Q785302. Mission no change. Fires: Observed 14,  
unobserved 16.

Enemy Activity:

Generally quiet for local attacks during the night. Two Bns of the 953rd VG Regt attacked Reipertswiller, and suffered heavy casualties from artillery fire, according to PW. About 200 ey occupied Wingen, but by dark had been repulsed. Considerable ey activity noted in vicinity of Q836421, Q805375, and Q795385. PW reports indicate 1st Bn 953rd, 2nd Bn 953rd, 2nd Bn 951st, two SS Bns from 12th SS Regt are on our front.

5 January 1945

Div Arty:

CP no change. Mission no change.

499th AFA Bn:

CP no change. Mission no change. Fires: Observed 23,  
unobserved 31.

500th AFA Bn:

CP no change. Mission no change. Fires: Observed 5,  
unobserved 42.

501st AFA Bn:

CP Q816304. Mission no change. Fires: Observed 4,  
unobserved 68.

Enemy Activity:

The ey again put on several local C/A's, in the rough Mountainous, wooded, terrain, infiltrating a number of men from the vicinity of Lightenberg. The towns of Lightenberg, Reipertswiller, and Wildenguth were heavily shelled at 1130. The Ey was stopped due to close support given our local C/A's by our artillery who had the area well covered with FO's. Reports indicate fire was very effective in most instances. 21 rds of Ey artillery fell in vicinity of 501st CP, Ingwiller, around 2000.

6 January 1945

Div Arty:

CP no change. Mission no change.

499th AFA Bn

CP no change. Mission no change. Fires: Observed 22,  
unobserved 12.

500th AFA Bn:

CP no change. Mission no change. Fires: Observed 4,  
unobserved 25.

501st AFA Bn:

CP no change. Mission no change. Fires: Observed 15,  
unobserved 45.

Enemy Activity:

Ey activity was greatly reduced during the day, except for slight infiltration. Ey was observed laying mine field across the road at Q833363. 3 Cos of Ey attacked South on Phillipsburg, supported by aprox 200 rds of light artillery. This attack was stopped by fires from the 499th AFA Bn who had direct observation on the town and were given credit for doing an excellent job.

By SO #1, Hq Seventh Army, dated 1 January 1945, Captain Richard T. Neumann, O367193, FA, temporarily promoted to rank of Major.



7 January 1945

Div Arty:

CP no change. Mission no change.

499th AFA Bn:

CP Q931391. Mission: Direct support TF Herron. Fires: Observed 14, unobserved 17.

500th AFA Bn:

CP R108373. Mission: Attached toCCA. Fires: Observed 4.

501st AFA Bn:

CP no change. Mission no change. Fires: Observed 14, unobserved 54.

Cpl Irving P. Dahlstedt, 36612149, and Pfc Henry P. Ravessloot 36628058, were injured by accidental discharge of M3 MG.

Enemy Activity:

Artillery fairly heavy on Inf during day. Single SP gun harrassed our troops at various intervals. Approximately 80 rds medium artillery fell on road S of Phillipsburg at 1700. A few rds 88mm fell on Ingwiller near 501st CP.

8 January 1945

Div Arty:

CP no change. Mission no change.

499th AFA Bn:

CP no change. Mission no change. Fires: Observed 22, unobserved 10.

500th AFA Bn:

CP no change. Mission no change. Fires: Observed 9, unobserved 25.

501st AFA Bn:

CP no change. Mission no change. Fires: Observed 11, unobserved 44.

Enemy Activity:

Approximately 40 rds mixed caliber FA landed in vicinity of Ingwiller shortly after midnight. Also some 170mm fell in Rothbach, during the early hours of the morning. Some 400 rds of mixed caliber fell near Wildenguth about 0800. Ey C/A of Co strength at 0935 near Q787387, was repulsed, however an attack of Bn strength at 1045 forced our line to withdraw about 200 yds. Considerable activity also reported S and SW on Phillipsburg Road. Scattered skirmishes throughout entire area were reported during the day.

Received msg from G-3 14th AD 0100, to be alerted and ready to move on 2 hrs notice to execute plan 5, 6, or 7.

93rd AFA will take over mission of 14th AD Arty.

9 January 1945

Div Arty:

CP no change. Mission: General support 45th Inf Div.

499th AFA Bn:

CP no change. Mission: Reinforcing fires of 158th and 17th FA Bns. Fires: Observed 8, unobserved 21.

500th AFA BN:

CP Q123353. Mission no change. Fires: Observed 2, unobserved 9.

501st AFA Bn:

CP no change. Mission: Reinforcing fires of 93rd AFA Bn and 171st FA Bn. Fires: Observed 6, unobserved 73.

Enemy Activity:

Light artillery, probably 88mm harrassing fire during the night in Ingwiller and Lightenburg.

40 rds of 88 fell on Q850377 at approximately 1600. One ey strongpoint was taken by firing mixed HE and WP after we had failed to blow them out with 8" how.

10 Jan 1945

Div Arty:

CP no change. Mission no change.

499th AFA Bn:

CP no change. Mission no change. Fires: Observed 8, unobserved 22.

500th AFA Bn:

CP no change. Mission no change. Fires: Observed 5, unobserved 62.

501st AFA Bn:

CP no change. Mission no change. Fires: Observed 6, unobserved 38.

Enemy Activity:

SP artillery active throughout the day, in a harrassing role. The 1st Bn 314th Inf met heavy pressure from hill Q799383, and were unable to advance. Div Arty had a field day at the expense of Fraut Artillery during the afternoon. Weather conditions permitted air observation for the 1st time in several days. 4 SP guns and 1 AA halftrack were destroyed by our Air Observers using one 8" how of the 995th FA Bn. Another Btry of 4 SP guns with a front of 300 yds were spotted in vicinity of Q819425 and 3 pieces were destroyed.

11 January 1945

Div Arty:

CP Kutzenhausen, R0337. Mission: Div Arty (-) 501, 500 general support 79th Inf Div.

499th AFA Bn:

CP R094376. Mission: Reinforce fires of 312th FA Bn. Fires: Observed 1, unobserved 16.

500th AFA Bn:

CP no change. Mission no change. Fires: Observed 7, unobserved 23.

501st AFA Bn:

CP Q821333. Mission: Attached to 45th Inf Div Arty. Fires: Observed None, Unobserved 28.

Enemy Activity:

Eny in control of N and NE portions of both Hatten and Rittershoffen. C/A of undetermined number of tanks and Inf received from N Hatten, at 2025. 40 tanks reported in Buhl, as of 1700.

Msg from Corps Arty Executive Officer as follows: "Your Div is moving to the vicinity of Woerth Morsbronn Les Bains Area. Move your FA to vic of Soultz prepared to support C/A from N or E. Tie in 312 FA, 6th GP will lay a line to you".

12 January 1945

Div Arty:

CP no change. Mission no change.

499th AFA Bn:

CP R115356. Mission no change. Fires: Observed 9, unobserved 12.

500th AFA Bn:

CP no change. Mission no change. Fires: Observed 9, unobserved 54.

501st AFA Bn:

CP no change. Mission no change. Fires: Observed 5, unobserved 15.

Enemy Activity:

Very active. From 400 to 500 rds of light or medium caliber artillery fell in vicinity of Q15031504 during the afternoon. Ey tanks reported at Q154341 and Q172344. MG and Mortar fire was received in considerable volume. Heavy house to house fighting took place in Rittershoffen during the day, especially around the enemy strongpoint in the church.

Div Sig O called stating that we would have to discontinue laying 2 wire circuits to each Bn until further notice due to critical shortage of wire in Seventh Army.

13 January 1945

Div Arty:

CP no change. Mission no change.

499th AFA Bn:

CP no change. Mission no change. Fires: Observed 9, unobserved 36.

500th AFA Bn:

CP no change. Mission no change. Fires: Observed 4, unobserved 33.

501st AFA Bn:

CP no change. Mission no change. Fires: Observed 11, unobserved 23.

Enemy Activity:

Ey artillery much lighter than before due partly to extensive Corps, C/B program. 40 to 50 rds of artillery was reported falling on each of the following towns: Kuhlendorf, Rittershoffen, Neiderbetschdorf, and Leiterswiller. Continued stiff resistance was encountered in Rittershoffen, as house to house fighting took place in many instances. The enemy center of resistance was around the church. Our Inf was repulsed slightly in a couple of instances by SP's, 88's and tanks. From Hatten, our Inf were routed out of a couple of buildings by the "Heinies" using bazookas to blow holes thru the side of the buildings, then using flame throwers on tanks to route them out.

14 January 1945

Div Arty:

CP no change. Mission no change.

499th AFA Bn:

CP no change. Mission no change. Fires: Observed 16, unobserved 36.

500th AFA Bn:

CP no change. Mission no change. Fires: Observed 21, unobserved 27.

501st AFA Bn:

CP no change. Mission no change. Fires: Observed 14, unobserved 37.

Enemy Activity:

Intense Ey artillery fire fell in Hatten, also Eastern edge of Kuhlendorf, mostly medium artillery. The enemy stubbornly resisted in both Hatten Rittershoffen, and house to house fighting continued back and forth during the day.

The following were particularly troublesome to our troops: Two flak wagons with 88's, AT guns in a RR cut S of Hatten, and the strong point around the churches in both Hatten and Rittershoffen.



15 January 1945

Div Arty:

CP no change. Mission no change.

499th AFA Bn:

CP no change. Mission no change. Fires: Observed 27, unobserved 48.

500th AFA Bn:

Cp no change. Mission no change. Fires: Observed 1, unobserved 53.

501st AFA Bn:

CP no change. Mission no change. Fires: No report.

Enemy Activity:

Enemy artillery continued light during the day. The Ey infantry continued his stubborn house to house resistance in Hatten and Rittershoffen, also his continuous harassing fires with tanks and SP guns.

16 January 1945

Div Arty:

CP no change. Mission no change.

499th AFA Bn:

CP no change. Mission no change. Fires : Observed 21, unobserved 39.

500th AFA Bn:

CP no change. Mission no change. Fires: Observed 17, unobserved 19.

501st AFA Bn:

No report.

Enemy Activity:

EY artillery increased during this period around Kuhlendorf and Schonenburg. Nebelweffers located and fired on by our AOP. Ey armor active during this period, and two C/A broken up by our artillery. An estimated 1000 to 1500 Ey dug in, in Hatten.

A new ammunition allowance of 30 rds per gun per day of 105 mm ammo was established by VI Corps.

By Special Orders #16, Headquarters Seventh Army, dated 16 January, 1st Lt. Richard H Cloud, O1176284, FA, was promoted temporarily to the grade of Captain.

17 January 1945

Div Arty:

CP no change. Mission no change.

499th AFA Bn:

CP no change. Mission no change. Fires: Observed 14, unobserved 34.

500th AFA Bn:

CP no change. Mission no change. Fires: Observed 6, unobserved 39.

501st AFA Bn:

CP no change. Mission no change. Fries: Observed 8, unobserved 42.

Enemy Activity:

Ey artillery generally less active during this period. Ey armor kept our infantry busy with harassing fire. At 0920,



an Ey attack consisting of Inf and tanks was broken up by our Artillery fire. Considerable activity was noted in orchard N of Hittershoffen. A "TOT" was fired on this spot when the Ey put up a smoke screen around the orchard.

18 January 1945

Div Arty:

CP no change. Mission no change.

499th AFA Bn:

CP no change. Mission no change. Fires: Observed 27, unobserved 7.

500th AFA Bn:

CP no change. Mission no change. Fires: Observed 15, unobserved 4.

501st AFA Bn:

No report.

Enemy Activity:

Enemy artillery again active putting fires on our front lines, also in Oberbetschdorf. Ey armor continued to probe our lines and 5 tanks were reported knocked out by our artillery. Adjustments were made on two large bunkers by our AOP, using 8" hows. An infantry C/A in Hatten was again broken up by our artillery before they could reach our front lines.

Our Hq Btry lost 1 1/4 ton vehicle driven by Pfc Clifford B. Cramp and Pfc Eugene C. Okin who drove thru the enemy front line and were hit by an enemy shell.

19 January 1945

Div Arty:

CP no change. Mission no change.

499th AFA Bn:

CP no change. Mission no change. Fires: Observed 35, unobserved 6.

500th AFA Bn:

CP no change. Mission no change. Fires: Observed 16, unobserved 54.

501st AFA Bn:

CP no change. Mission no change. Fires: No report.

Enemy Activity:

Ey artillery slightly decreased except in Hatten, which was shelled quite heavily. Ey armor was again active during the day, in the role of probing and harassing our troops. Considerable activity was noticed around a few of the bunkers of the old Maginot Line to our front. Ey C/A several times during the day with tanks and infantry to be stopped by our artillery.

20 January 1945

Div Arty:

CP enroute to Minversheim, Q9120. Mission no change.

499th AFA Bn:

CP enroute to Ohmungen, Q9723. Mission no change. Fires: Observed 16, unobserved 5.

500th AFA Bn:

CP no change. Mission no change. Fires: No report.

501st AFA Bn:

CP enroute to Ettendorf, Q8923. Mission: Returned to Div Arty, reinforcing fires of 79th. Fires: No report.

Enemy Activity:

Considerable enemy traffic was heard throughout early morning near Rittershoffen and Hatten, and an unusual amount of vehicular traffic on the Buhl road. Scattered mortar fire throughout the day.

The Div Arty Commander was ordered to report to Corps Artillery Officer, with Bn Commanders, relative to plans to withdraw to position areas S of Hagenau Forest, in keeping with the Corps plan of straightening our line and protecting our right flank against an enemy threat from that direction. Pop was assigned the mission: "Direct support CCA", who was covering the withdrawal of the 79th Div. The withdrawal was made under most adverse weather conditions of ice and snow without loss of a single vehicle or any equipment. The Germans were evidently taken completely by surprise, as no harrassing fires were received even though the icy roads were jammed with vehicles. It is the opinion of most of the FO's that the "Heinies" were withdrawing their forces when we received orders from Higher Headquarters also to withdraw.

21 January 1945

Div Arty:

CP Minversheim Q9120. Mission: General support 79th and 103rd Inf Div.

499th AFA Bn:

CP Q975227. Mission: General support 79th Inf Div. Fires: None.

500th AFA Bn:

CP Q954244. Mission: General support 79th Inf Div. Fires:

Unobserved 13.

501st AFA Bn:

CP Q895242. Mission: General support 103rd Inf Div. Fires: None.

Enemy Activity:

None of any description in Rittershoffen until afternoon, at which time all of our troops were S of the Hagenau Forest. The Ey was quite surprised evidently to learn of our withdrawal.

22 January 1945

Div Arty:

CP no change. Mission: Div Arty was alerted for possible displacement to take over fires of 12th Armd Div Arty, reinforcing fires of 36th Inf Div.

499th AFA Bn:

CP no change. Mission no change. Fires: Observed 3, unobserved none.

500th AFA Bn:

CP no change. Mission no change. Fires: Observed 1.

501st AFA Bn:

CP no change. Mission no change. Fires: Observed 1.

Enemy Activity:

Little contact with the enemy during the day. Reports indicate enemy forces building up in vicinity of Bitschwiller. Inf reported on the road at R086312, also patrols at Hunsdorf, R031261. Some activity along the road from Schenrhoffen to Kaultenhausen Ramshackle.

Msg from VI Corps Arty Executive C indicated that probably time of departure of 12th Armd Div Arty as 1000 23 Jan.

23 January 1945

Div Arty:

CP no change. Mission: Reinforcing fires of 36th Inf Div, relieving the 12th Armd Div Arty.

499th AFA Bn:

CP Brumath, Q988142. Mission: Same as Div Arty. Fires: Observed 7, unobserved 2.

500th AFA Bn:

CP Geudertheim, Q014136. Mission: Same as Div Arty. Fires: Observed 10, unobserved 1.

501st AFA Bn:

CP Weitbruch, Q027169. Mission: Same as Div Arty. Fires: Observed 7, unobserved 4.

Enemy Activity:

Generally light, appear to be building up in Bitschwiller and Weyersheim areas. Considerable movement of small enemy patrols noted in the Hagenau Sector.

24 January 1945

Div Arty:

CP no change. Mission no change.

499th AFA Bn:

CP no change. Mission no change. Fires: Observed 14, unobserved 3.

500th AFA Bn:

CP no change. Mission no change. Fires: Observed 10, unobserved 7.

501st AFA Bn:

CP no change. Mission no change. Fires: Observed 19, unobserved 6.

Enemy Activity:

Generally same as the 23rd with continued build up around Bitschwiller. 30 tanks reported at R115112.

25 January 1945

Div Arty:

CP no change. Mission no change.

499th AFA Bn:

CP Q9627021030. Mission: Attached to CCB. Fires: Observed 8, unobserved 13.

500th AFA Bn:

CP no change. Mission no change. Fires: Observed 6, unobserved 6.

501st AFA Bn:

CP no change. Mission no change. Fires: Observed 7, unobserved 3.

Enemy Activity:

Enemy attacked during the early morning across the Hagenau-Pfaffenhoffen Road and into the woods NW of Schweighausen. We were forced back into the woods with heavy casualties, our tankers had a field day catching Inf in open without AT protection. Units identified were 9th, 11th, and 12th Companies of the 20th Regiment, 7th Parachute Div, also the 19th Regiment of the 7th Parachute Div.

Fop 6 alerted as to possible attachment of his unit to CCA and movement during the night.

26 January 1945

Div Arty:

CP no change. Mission no change.

499th AFA Bn:

CP Winterhaus, Q975215. Mission: General support, reinforcing fires 79th Div. Fires: Observed 5, unobserved 26.

500th AFA Bn:

CP Uttwiller, Q819276. Mission: General support, reinforcing fires of 383rd FA Bn, 103rd Div Arty. Fires: None.

501st AFA Bn:

CP Weitbruch, R031171. Mission: General support, reinforcing fires 36th Div Arty. Fires: Observed 5, unobserved 10.

Enemy Activity:

Light throughout the day, with scattered harrassing artillery along the front.

27 January 1945

Div Arty:

CP no change. Mission no change.

499th AFA Bn:

CP no change. Mission no change. Fires: Observed 1, unobserved 15.

500th AFA Bn:

CP no change. Mission: Reinforcing fires 103rd Inf Div Arty. Fires: Observed 4.

501st AFA Bn:

CP no change. Mission no change. Fires: Observed 1, unobserved 8.

Enemy Activity:

Little activity from enemy patrols and some scattered artillery. While adjusting on a BP, the 500th AFA hit an Ammo dump in Nieffern, causing an enormous explosion.

28 January 1945

Div Arty:

CP no change. Mission no change.

499th AFA Bn:

CP no change. Mission no change. Fires: Observed 5, unobserved 4.

500th AFA Bn:

CP no change. Mission no change. Fires: Observed 1, unobserved 3.

501st AFA Bn:

CP no change. Mission no change. Fires: Observed 4, unobserved 7.

Enemy Activity:

Continuous light artillery fire over entire front. The 499th fired on Hy CP at Q99782452, scoring one direct hit. The 501st FA fired one observed mission on a Btry of Horse Drawn at R129163 and a SP Gun at R114018, starting a fire on the latter target.

29 January 1945

Div Arty:

CP no change. Mission no change.

499th AFA Bn:

CP no change. Mission no change. Fires: Observed 8, unobserved 13.



500th AFA Bn:

CP no change. Mission no change. Fires: Observed 3, unobserved 8.

501st AFA Bn:

CP no change. Mission no change. Fires: Observed 5, unobserved 7.

Enemy Activity:

Little Ey activity was noticed across the entire Corps front. On the Corps left flank, the Ey was observed withdrawing to a better defensive position about 1 Km North of Rothbach. AOP reports all bridges blown in Gambsheim area. Arty fire was adjusted on Ey dug in in the vicinity of Q961287. The bridge at Mertzwiller, R959293, was fired on by the 499th AFA obtaining 5 direct hits and destroying the North end of the bridge.

30 January 1945

Div Arty:

CP no change. Mission no change.

499th AFA Bn:

CP no change. Mission no change. Fires: Observed 2, unobserved 11.

500th AFA Bn:

CP no change. Mission no change. Fires: Observed 5.

501st AFA Bn:

CP no change. Mission no change. Fires: Unobserved 3.

Enemy Activity:

Ey activity continues light. Artillery limited to scattered harrassing fires. Approximately 20 rds of light artillery fell in Minversheim, Q9120, in the vicinity of Div Arty CP, with little damage except the destruction of one wire truck, of Hq Btry, Div Arty. The 499th FA fired on 3 Ey tanks at Q970268, as of 1620, forcing the tanks to withdraw.

31 January 1945

Div Arty:

CP no change. Mission no change.

499th AFA Bn:

CP no change. Mission no change. Fires: Observed 6, unobserved 6.

500th AFA Bn:

CP no change. Mission no change. Fires: Unobserved 5.

501st AFA Bn:

CP no change. Mission no change. Fires: Observed 5.

Enemy Activity:

Due to inclement weather of snow and fog, there is little activity along the front. The 499th took under fire a house at Q995259 in which they had observed Ey entering, scoring direct hits. Other targets were small and scarce.

The Div Arty Commander was called to Div Hq where he received the following citation:

GENERAL ORDERS # 3, Hq 14th Armd Div, 30 January 1945:

III. AWARD OF THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL.

By direction of the President, under the provisions of Army Regulations 600-45, 22 September 1943 as amended, the Bronze Star Medal is awarded by the Division Commander to the following named individuals:

MAURICE E. KURTZ, 012313, Colonel, Field Artillery, 14th Armored Division Artillery. For meritorious service near Rittershoffen, France and Hatten, France, from 6 January 1945 to 20 January 1945. Entered United States Military Academy from Iowa.

In summary of the months operation, the Div Arty was in the line continuously, supporting the 45th Inf Div in its operations against the German thrust E of Bitche. Later, they were taken away from the 45th Div and sent to restore our MLR generally along the Maginot Defenses NE of Soultz, in the vicinity of Hatten and Rittershoffen, where they took part in some of the fiercest fighting of the war to date. After the main battle around these two towns, it was decided to pull the whole VI Corps front back S of the Hagenau Forest to shorten our lines and portect our right (East) flank from the Rhine. The weather during the whole period was marked by continuous snow flurries, with a couple good snow storms seriously hampering the use of our Air OP's. The following is a summary of the amount of ammunition fired to date:

	Nov	Dec	Jan	TOTAL
499th	0	10299	27911	38210
500th	857	8671	15500	25028
501st	0	7347	17841	25188
TOTAL	857	26317	61252	88426